592 among the Banfumu. [Ed., the remainder of the chapter, through page 54, is not translated.]

[55] Chapter 3

The Native's Means of Subsistence

Animal husbandry: chickens, goats, dogs. -- Agriculture: manioc, maize, rice, bananas, peanuts. -- Hunting: weapons, snares, nkisi, individual method, communal hunting. -- Fishing: general method, dams, basket weirs, traps, harpoons, bows and arrows, cord nets, screens.

● 231 The peoples of the Congo-Kasai-Lake Leopold II region and of the Lukenie do very little animal husbandry. They possess no large animals. At most one may find a few chickens, rare goats, and some hunting dogs in their villages. The dogs get a share of the game and live as best they can the rest of the time.

No care whatever is given to the goats. They wander freely during the day and graze in the forest or plain. Sometimes they venture into the planted fields, from which the hunting dogs chase them at first sight. At night they return to the village and take shelter where they will. During our stay in the village of Toipolo, [485] they even came and disturbed us at night while we were lodged in the hut reserved for strangers.

235 The chickens wander around the village and planted areas during the day and sleep [56] at night in the native's hut, where they have their nest for laying eggs and a place to hatch them.

262 439 435 The native does not eat the eggs. He sells them to agents of the state or of commercial concerns, who collect them for hatching. The chicken itself is rarely eaten by the native. Most often it goes to the kitchens of the Europeans. In 1913-14 the average price of a chicken was half a franc, that of an egg, five centimes, and the price of a goat was from five to 15 francs.

paragraph beginning on page 97 and continued on page 98 is not translated.]

[98] On the whole, we note the following special ethnic characteristics.

1) Uniformity in the cultivation of manioc, the staple food of all of these peoples.

2) Undertaking the cultivation of maize under the influence

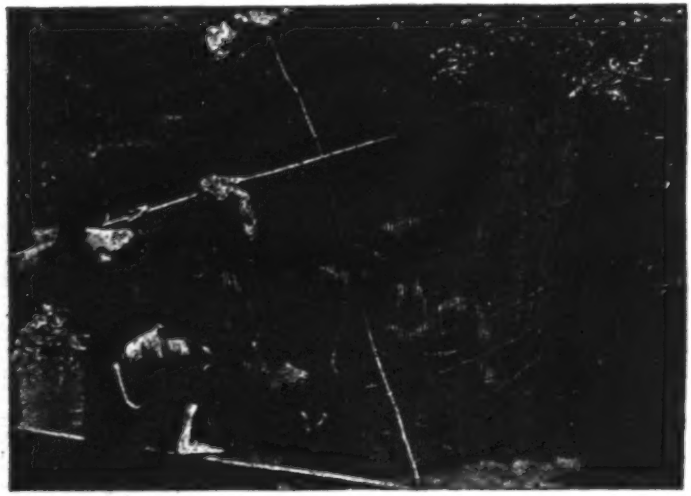

Fig. 58. Weir Fishing at a Dam among the Mosengere. Closing the Screens and Capturing the Trapped Fish.

of the ephemeral encouragement of Bula Matari [Ed., the European administration] among the peoples of the Congo-Kasai, and rice cultivation under Arab influence in the region of Bena Dibele-Kole. Contrary to what we noted concerning maize, the innovation introduced by the Arabs has become firmly implanted in the life of these natives, and the cultivation of rice will probably eliminate manioc eventually.

3) Formation of a zone of sugar-cane cultivation, the development of which is in inverse proportion to the extent of the palm groves.

4) Complete absence of animal husbandry of any importance.

5) Uniformity in the methods of communal hunting and the gradual development of attendant religious customs and practices from east to west, corresponding to a decline in hunting by individuals with traditional weapons. This fact leads us to suppose

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619
[825]

recollection of an animal of the leopard family which they call bokonga. Their description of it corresponds to the lion. Some soldiers and other expatriates, who were also young people, shown representations of a lion immediately identified it with their bokonga.

The groups under discussion here lived for a time on the banks of the Luwo (Maringa) and the [11] upper Ikelemba, (1) then under

[173]

1. It appears that between the Ikelemba and its tributary the Losâlifa, there is still a bonkom tree called w'ãmenga (of bald heads) under which, according to tradition, the ancestors held their councils. Nearby there is a bosãũ whose fruits never ripen.

pressure from other Mõngo tribes, they crossed the Tshuapa-Ruki. They evicted the Ekonda and settled in their present location. This exodus must have taken place a fairly long time ago; it is impossible to determine the date and difficult to make any estimates. In any case it must have occurred 150 to 200 years ago.

241 These peoples are primarily farmers; they grow chiefly bananas, manioc, yams, colocasia [taro], sweet potatoes, sugar cane, and various vegetables and condiments. The food crops they grow, together with what they gather and the Elaeis palm trees provide them with a continuous and abundant food supply, as long as elephants do
● [231] not interfere. Their domestic animals include chickens, goats, and
224 dogs. (2) Hunting is a pleasant change of activity rather than an

[177]

2. Ducks have been introduced fairly recently, but they were known long before colonial times. They came from the south. Sheep have been introduced only in the last few decades, and they are found only in a few villages on the river banks in the lowlands.

583* 431 generally packed in baskets or [151] in bengonjo (or betete), which are baskets woven of palm leaves.

Some ethnologists have introduced the expression douaire, "dowry," (1) to designate the goods given by the woman's family to

1. See for example Torday, in Africa, Vol. 2, no. 3, p. 279.

the man's family. Actually, the word dot would be a much better translation, because it corresponds more closely to the nature of these payments. But this would require changing the terminology adopted, and the introduction of another term (such as marriage payment) for what is generally understood by the word dot, whose use is in any case unfortunate. [Translator's note: Hulstaert uses dot, which would literally be translated into English as "dowry," to designate the payments made by the husband and his family to the wife's family. However, I have employed the term "bride price" in accordance with the usage of English-speaking anthropologists.]

Furthermore, the word douaire already has a precise and accepted meaning, so that its use in this context would lead to confusion. That is why I prefer provisionally to use an entirely new term, and to translate nkomf' as contre-dot [literally, counter-dowry]. (2)

2. This term was suggested to me by Attorney General A. Sohier.

[Translator's note: The term "dowry" has been used to designate this payment in the translation.]

The nkomf' consists of hens, ducks (3), salt, mats, pots, gourds

● [231] [177]

3. Ducks have been introduced fairly recently; the Nkundó maintain that their ancestors did not have any, and that they got them from the Ekonda. In their classification they place them under the category of chickens.